

WO-368

1882, 1927

Bethany United Methodist Church  
Pocomoke City  
Public worship

The congregation of Bethany United Methodist Church traces its formation to 1832 when early meetings were led by Reverend Avra Melvin. The first Bethany church is reported to have stood near the cemetery. It was only a few years later that the congregation relocated to a site on Third Street, purchased from Sally Jones, where a store building was refitted for worship services. This second structure is thought to have been used for four years until another building was erected on the same site in 1853. Apparently this third edifice served the congregation until the early 1880s when a fourth church was built on a new site fronting Market Street. Dedicated in 1882, the Market Street church was heavily rebuilt in 1927 in neo-classical taste. Few exterior changes have been made since that time, and the large Classical Revival church is a prominent landmark on Market Street.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MHT Inventory Number: W0-368

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE  
RELIGION
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
Church

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-368

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic BETHANY METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

and/or common BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 2. Location

street & number East side of Market Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Pocomoke City ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Bethany United Methodist Church

street & number Market Street telephone no.:

city, town Pocomoke City state and zip code MD 21851

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. W0-368

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Bethany United Methodist Church, formerly the Bethany Methodist Protestant Church, is located on the east side of Market Street in the center of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The neo-classical frame church faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Documented by the cornerstone to have been built in 1882 and rebuilt in 1927, this large gable-front frame structure is supported by a vented brick foundation, and it is covered with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical neo-classical front with a raised brick platform supported fluted Corinthian metal columns. The columns underpin a decorated frieze and a modillion block pediment. Fixed within the tympanum is a round window. The stretcher bond brick platform is accented with molded concrete quoins and copings. A double staircase rises within the portico to a pedimented double-door entrance. Pilasters and a six-light transom frame the entrance. Atop the transom is a decorated pediment embellished with egg-and-dart and dentil rows. To each side of the entrance are large twenty-over-twenty sash windows finished with molded cornices.

The north and south sides are similar with large-size twenty-over-twenty sash windows lighting the sanctuary and twelve-over-twelve sash illuminating the basement level. All of the windows are finished with a molded lintel. A centrally positioned side door pierces the north side.

A large Sunday School and church hall wing extends to the back of the main building.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-368

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1832, 1882, 1927 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The congregation of Bethany United Methodist Church traces its formation to 1832 when early meetings were led by Reverend Avra Melvin. The first Bethany church is reported to have stood near the cemetery. It was only a few years later that the congregation relocated to a site on Third Street, purchased from Sally Jones, where a store building was refitted for worship services. This second structure is thought to have been used for four years until another building was erected on the same site in 1853. Apparently this third edifice served the congregation until the early 1880s when a fourth church was built on a new site fronting Market Street. Dedicated in 1882, the Market Street church was heavily rebuilt in 1927 in neo-classical taste. Few exterior changes have been made since that time.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-368

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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D 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private consultant/Worcester Co. date 8/20/89

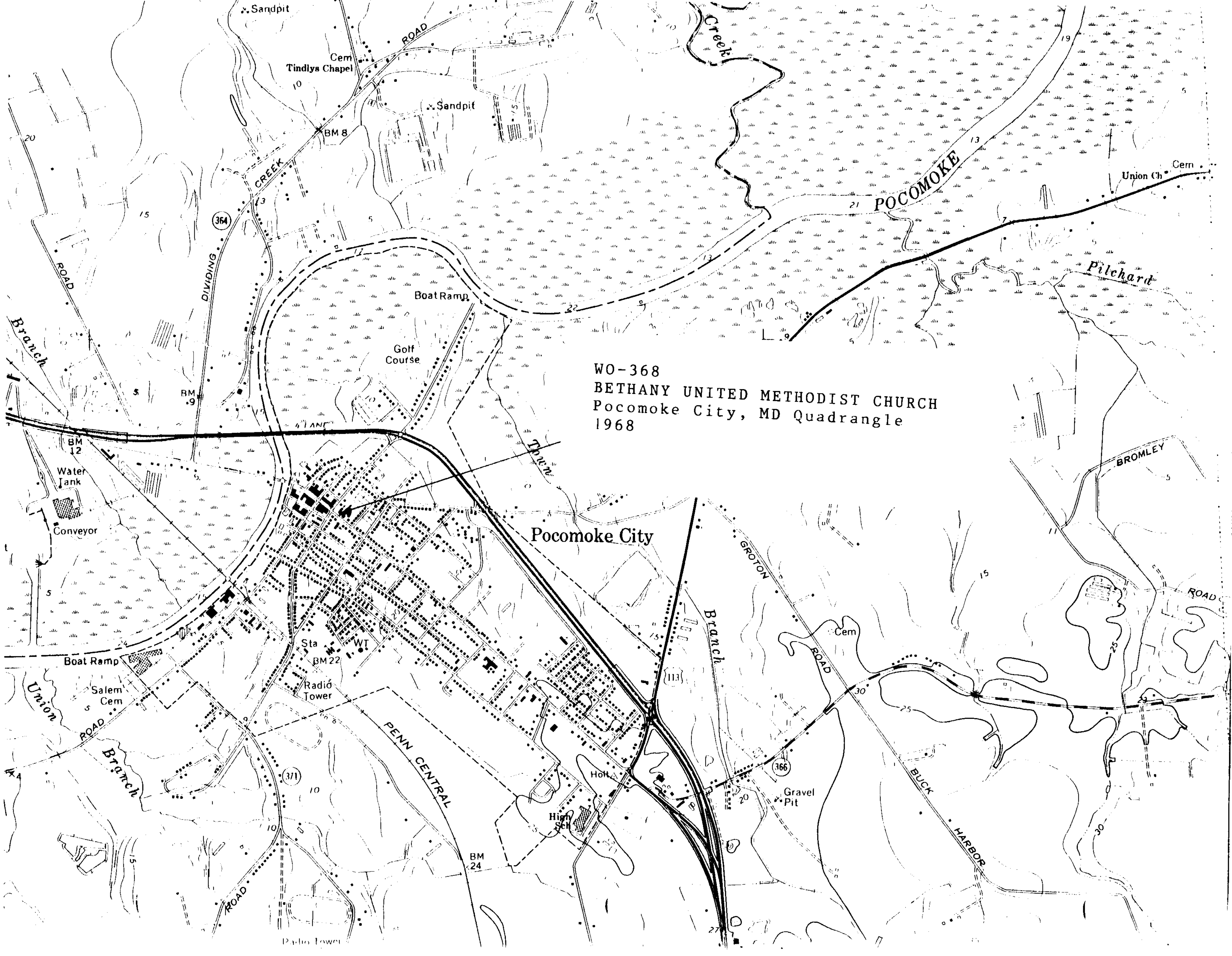
street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438



WO-368  
BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Pocomoke City, MD Quadrangle  
1968